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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
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GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLS	SUB-CLS	FILE DATE
<i>JA</i>	A1	5,073,484	Dec. 17, 1991	Swanson et al.			
	A2	5,246,835	Sep. 21, 1993	Suzuki et al.			
	A3	5,415,994	May 16, 1995	Imrich et al.			
	A4	5,424,193	Jun. 13, 1995	Pronovost et al.			
	A5	5,656,502	Aug. 12, 1997	MacKay et al.			
	A6	6,001,658	Dec. 14, 1999	Fredrickson			
	A7	6,190,878 B1	Feb. 20, 2001	Pleron et al.			
	A8	5,403,744	Apr. 4, 1995	Zimmerle			
	A9	6,153,392	Nov. 28, 2000	Liao et al.			
	A10	4,804,625	14 Feb 1989	Morrison, et al.			
	A11	4,281,061	28 Jul 1981	Zuk, et al.			
	A12	5,087,575	11 Feb 1992	Lau, Arthur L. Y.			

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS

EXAM. INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBL. DATE	COUNTRY	CLS	SUB-CLS	TRANS ?
<i>JA</i>	B1	EP 0830206 B1	Jan. 24, 2001	EP			
	B2	WO 94/01775	Jan. 20, 1994	PCT			
	B3	WO 94/29696	Dec. 22, 1994	PCT			
	B4	WO 96/40434	Dec. 19, 1996	PCT			
	B5	EP 0 198 639 A1	22 Oct. 1986	Europe			
	B6	WO 00/37944	29 June 2000	PCT			
<i>JA</i>	B7	JP 5-302922	11/1993	JP (corresponding to US5246835)			
	B8	JP 404249941A	9/1992	JP			

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.